

December 6, 1985

U.S. Representative Lee H. Hamilton, Chairman  
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Honorable Representative Hamilton:

This is to request your kind attention as Chairman of the House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to see what can be done to have an investigation into the requests of the coffee farmers of Cifuentes, Honduras to rid them of the Nicaraguan guerrilla army massed near their town. Wilfredo Castellanos, Vice President, of their coffee growers association reported in the November 16, 1985 issue of the New York Times: "They have forced a war on us that doesn't interest us, that kills us in the face of the indifference of our Government.

The farmers are afraid of these rebels who run the areas they occupy as warlords. The farmers said that these rebels are poorly trained, undisciplined and violent. One farmer called them "coldblooded killers." Pedro Echeverria Garcia, a 70-year old farmer near Cifuentes reported that on November 29, 1984 armed men burst into his wooden farmhouse at night and shot his wife, Gregoria Pereria Escobar, 45-years old to death. He was saved by jumping out a window. He said that his son has had problems with the rebels.

Four local farmers said the rebels had killed four residents of Cifuentes since 1980 on suspicion of being Sandinista spies. They said the four were Lisandro Zuniga, Tonio Duarte, Gerardo Ochoa and Mr. Echeverria's wife. They added that the rebels killed four members of the family of Jesus Martizez in nearby Los Planes three years ago in order to rape two of his daughters. This week a Nicaraguan named Santo Gonzalez Lopez killed a Honduran friend, Andrea Alvarado, in a nearby village using a hand grenade, according to the military police in Danli.

Another farmer said that when residents tried to restrain a rebel who got drunk last year in the hamlet of La Lodosa, the rebel brushed them off, shouting, "We are supported by Ronald Reagan and we can do what we want!" What gives the right to these U.S. Contra rebels to kill and rape whomever they please?

I hope you are able to help establish an investigation that results in some law and order and justice in this area of Honduras, and that rids these farmers of these Contras, and that sees that those guilty of the murders and rapes are tried in courts of law and punished and required to indemnify the victims or their families.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your reply.

Respectfully yours,

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